The PRICKED EAR

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ACHTUNG! ANNOUNCEMENTS!

¶ Executive Board, Thursday, 13 March, at 6:30, Richards Lounge; to meet with Balfour representative re Grypins, etc. Bring silver and a dish to pass.

¶ Dravo staff meeting, Tuesday, 11 March, at 11:00 p.m., Dravo Lounge. All seats free, but a voluntary offering will be taken to help the needy in Mombasa.

¶ Sigmund sez: There will be a Psi Chi talk on "Automatic Control Systems" by Robert Brewer, an engineer at Western Electric Company. His talk, which will be given on Tuesday, 11 March, at 8 p.m., in Packard 416, will be concerned with the application of automation and cybernetics to psychological theory, and will be followed by a critique by two Lehigh professors, George Kane and Arnold Small. A must for engineers, according to Mr. Fozard. Nevertheless, we're keeping an open mind.

MANY THANKS, JERRY KUEBLER, for a fine post-Hofstra party to celebrate a smashing victory. Thanks also to your parents for providing chaperonage. Too bad more of the gang weren't there to enjoy the fun. Informal entertainment, incidentally, was provided in the Samara Room by Hopalong LaPara, who regaled all with his demonstrations of the best in modern gunplay. He had to leave early, though, to head 'em off at Rockbelly Canyon.

THIS MORNING'S MAIL brought to our desk, along with the usual duns ("If this bill is not paid within ten days, we shall be forced to cancel your subscription to 'Pravda' at once."), a letter from Melvyn Masuda, assistant counselor in Dravo D-3. We are, of course, happy to convey his remarks to our readers. He writes:

To the Editors:—

A few days ago I found out that the Executive Board was meeting regularly to evaluate the present counseling system. Quite a few of us did not know of this. Although many of us have shown an interest in improving the system, very little has been done in the way of voicing our opinions and suggestions. Now is the time for all of us to give it some thought so that we may have something to work for. Why don't we have specific topics, that the Board has been reviewing, put before the group? Perhaps, we may then be able to arouse more interest in this matter of evaluating the present system which is still in its infancy.

This has to be a group effort in order to be beneficial to all—freshmen included. Even a few minutes of thought is better than none at all. How about it, Gryphons?

Melvyn C. Masuda

THE FOREGOING LETTER from Mel Masuda prompted the following lengthy report, also in the form of a letter. It was written by one of your editors, but we hope you'll take the time to read it, anyway. His opinions are, of course, his own; the Pricked Ear is an independent paper, with firm principles and a high moral code, beholden to no one! (Oh, stop laughing.)

LETTER FROM BERLIN—

March 10. Dravo House counselors know that at almost any hour of the day or night there is likely to be some kind of Gryphongathering in my room. In fact, so interminable are these gatherings that I am inclined to describe them as the first floating bull session in history. Of course, they have their occasionally torpid moments, and the "only subject worth discussing" is, indeed, discussed from time to time. By and large, though, the conversation treats intelligent topics in an intelligent manner.

Well, Mel Masuda's letter to the editors is prompted, I believe, by the same problem which has been most often the subject of these bull sessions—not, as you might think, How can we improve the counseling program? but, How can we overcome the problem of communicating with people? I am not thinking only of the communication between the Gryphon Executive Board and other Gryphons, but also between counselor and freshmen; between counselor and house fellow; between counselor and University; and, if you will between counselor (abstract) and Gryphon Society. Some of us have been chipping away at this problem since September, but I don't think that anyone has yet carved out an acceptable and workable answer.

Not that we haven't solved some of the peripheral aspects of the problem. For instance, we would like to believe that the Pricked Ear is bringing to all counselors a variety of news, opinions, and announcements in an intelligent and permanent form. The Gryphon Society itself has surely been of incalculable worth in welding the counselors into a cohesive living group, thereby making available to the counselors an entirely new resource in group relationships. Is there any counselor who can honestly

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say that he has gained no new insights whatsoever into his counseling job through his participation in Gryphon Society activities? Nor can we ignore the efforts of "Fuzzy" Bozard--his talks to us, singly or collectively, his dinner meetings, his famous (and numerous) "handouts". These accomplishments alone would probably be enough to warrant our saying that we Gryphons haven't exactly been sitting down on the job. But there is more.

Our Gryphon Constitution contains, intentionally, a clause designed to go one step farther in the communications problem. Paragraph "7" of Section "V" reads: "The Executive Board shall meet occasionally with the Director of Residence Halls and the Associate Deans of Students, for the purpose of examining the freshman counseling program, and making appropriate suggestions for its improvement." Late in November last, the Executive Board began to meet informally with Dean Leith and Mr. Campbell, at the latter's request, to examine, with as impartial an eye as possible, the entire Disciplinary Code and the ideological structure upon which it is based. Since we did not at that time know where we were going to end, and since this was our first safari into the jungle of committee investigation, no immediate thought was given to apprising the Society of our discussions. This may or may not have been a mistake; it certainly was not done with any thought to withholding information from the counselors.

We have now completed our informal discussions, and are about to draw up a list of recommendations relative to the Disciplinary Code. These recommendations will be printed in full in a future issue of the Pricked Ear, after which the counselors as a whole can review them in detail at a Gryphonmeeting. What the final disposition will be, no one as yet knows.

Not very surprisingly, our discussions about discipline also touched, at one time or another, on a host of other topics, some of which were suggested by arguments and comments voiced in our various meetings, bull sessions, and even parties. Thus the Gryphons have not been totally without a voice, although they haven't known just how effective that voice was. Nevertheless, Mel has a good point, and I believe that some means must be worked out whereby, in the future, the Executive Board can become the voice of the Gryphon Society, speaking in all directions--to the Administration, to the counselors, perhaps even to the freshmen. Auf Wiedersehen!

—H.C.T.

IT HAS BEEN SOME TIME since we printed any "How About's" in these pages, but that doesn't mean that we've run out of them. And just to prove it, here are some more.

- How about having the Millons at one of our affairs again?
- How about some sort of coat rack in the lounge for our future social events?
- How about all of us taking on what would surely prove to be a labor of love? We have in mind an annual record of progress, a yearbook, an annual report--call it what you will--in which we could put down in permanent form the record of our year. Innovations in the counseling program could be described, as well as their effectiveness. Results of committee meetings could also be noted, thereby possibly eliminating needless duplication in future years. Of course, our purely social activities would be duly compiled, and statistics, vital or otherwise, duly listed. The list of possibilities is endless. The important thing is that everyone who would, could take part. The cost would be relatively insignificant, and the work would naturally be done throughout the year, thus eliminating any end-of-the-year pressure on the editorial staff. The satisfaction gained from such a project, both during and after, would, we are sure, be quite incalculable. If this idea strikes your fancy, we can only say that it is not too late to start on a modest scale this year. This question will be raised at our next Gryphonmeeting. We hope your answer will be in the affirmative. —H.C.T.

SHORT POEM: When's our next deadline? / Sunday will be fine. / Send in some copy / And you'll make us all hoppy.